

Table of international flight routes and times, including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Athens, and London.

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Why John Travolta walked out on Roman Polanski

Education

The modernisers v the agonisers

The movie from hell



Cuts and the despair of the dons

G2 pages 10/11

New Labour, new danger?



New hero ends long run of British under-achievement at Wimbledon

Henman breaks tennis mould

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

TIM HENMAN beat the rain, the cold and the inbred tennis pessimism of a nation to reach the quarter-finals of Wimbledon yesterday, the first British man to do so since Roger Taylor in 1973.



Tim Henman salutes the crowd after his triumph at Wimbledon yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Blair now No 1 Tory target

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major's cabinet yesterday endorsed the switch towards a more negative advertising campaign in the run-up to the general election.

out in the wake of Mr Blair's own U-turn in favour of a devolution referendum — which, ironically, his party criticises.

single currency and the social chapter, union power and the minimum wage, even education and crime on which Labour's rightwards policy shifts have been conspicuous.

Nanny dishes dirt on Israel's First Lady

PM's au pair claims unfair dismissal over burnt soup



Sara Netanyahu: 'called security guard' to evict Shaw



Tanya Shaw: 'If anybody is unstable it's her [Mrs Netanyahu]

... If I'm so unstable, could she let me be with her children for six months?

hours later and was handed her passport and clothes. Ms Shaw said: "She used to make me wash my hands 300 times a day. You weren't allowed to touch anything..."



"The skies wept and very probably Gaza did too... but there was to be no balcony kiss to lift the fans' hearts nor even a glimpse of the happy couple."

Sarah Bosley on the other big match, page 2

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Advertisement for 'Would you like to be a writer?' by Nick Daws. Includes details about a course and contact information for The Writers Bureau.

Advertisement for 'Why not be a writer?' with contact details for The Writers Bureau.

'The smell is often rather delicious, but I do not want to smell the food 18 hours a day'



Superchef Raymond Blanc's new restaurant in Oxford, Le Petit Blanc, which has caused a stink among residents complaining of wayward wafts and noise PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN AROGLES

Gourmet dished by neighbours

Alex Bellos and Hannah Pool on how chef Raymond Blanc's latest venture has got up the noses of some Oxford people

THEY may be some of the most exquisite culinary aromas in England, but to the neighbours of Le Petit Blanc it is nothing better than pollution.

For several weeks people living near superchef Raymond Blanc's new restaurant in Oxford have been subjected to the odours of Madeira and sweet onion sauce, molten gruyere and pieces of lamb roasting in their own juices.

"The smell is often rather delicious," said Lucinda Leach, whose garden is next to the restaurant kitchen. "But I do not want to smell food 18 hours a day, however delicious it is."

The philosophy behind Mr Blanc's venture, which opened last month in a blaze of publicity, was to create a quality French brasserie in the heart of Oxford "buzzing with new ideas, energy and excitement". Unfortunately for him much of the energy created has been anger fuelled in his direction.

As well as the wayward wafts, neighbours have complained about excessive noise, the "posh" clientele, and the prices.

Mr Blanc, a former European Chef of the Year, has been accused of "an extraordinary lack of respect" by Oxford planning committee chairman for failing to listen to the community in Jericho, the restaurant's location.

A spokesman for Le Petit Blanc said several alterations had been implemented after it had received complaints. "We have changed the door construction so it doesn't bang, and sorted out the noise from the refrigerator," she said. "We are committed to listening to complaints and acting on them."

Ms Leach, aged 42, a furniture designer, said the problem stemmed from waiters walking through the restau-

rant garden with food. An elderly neighbour said the noise was unbearable.

"The chefs never seem to talk to each other," she said. "They have to shout and the kitchen door is always open so we can hear almost every order."

When planning permission was given in 1994 the restaurant was to charge between 25 and 29 a main course to make it affordable to local people. But the menu lists several dishes at more than 60.

Ray Baskop, former chairman of Jericho Residents Society, said the public had not got what it expected. People eating in the restaurant tended to be richer, driving from outside the area and parking in residents' parking spaces.

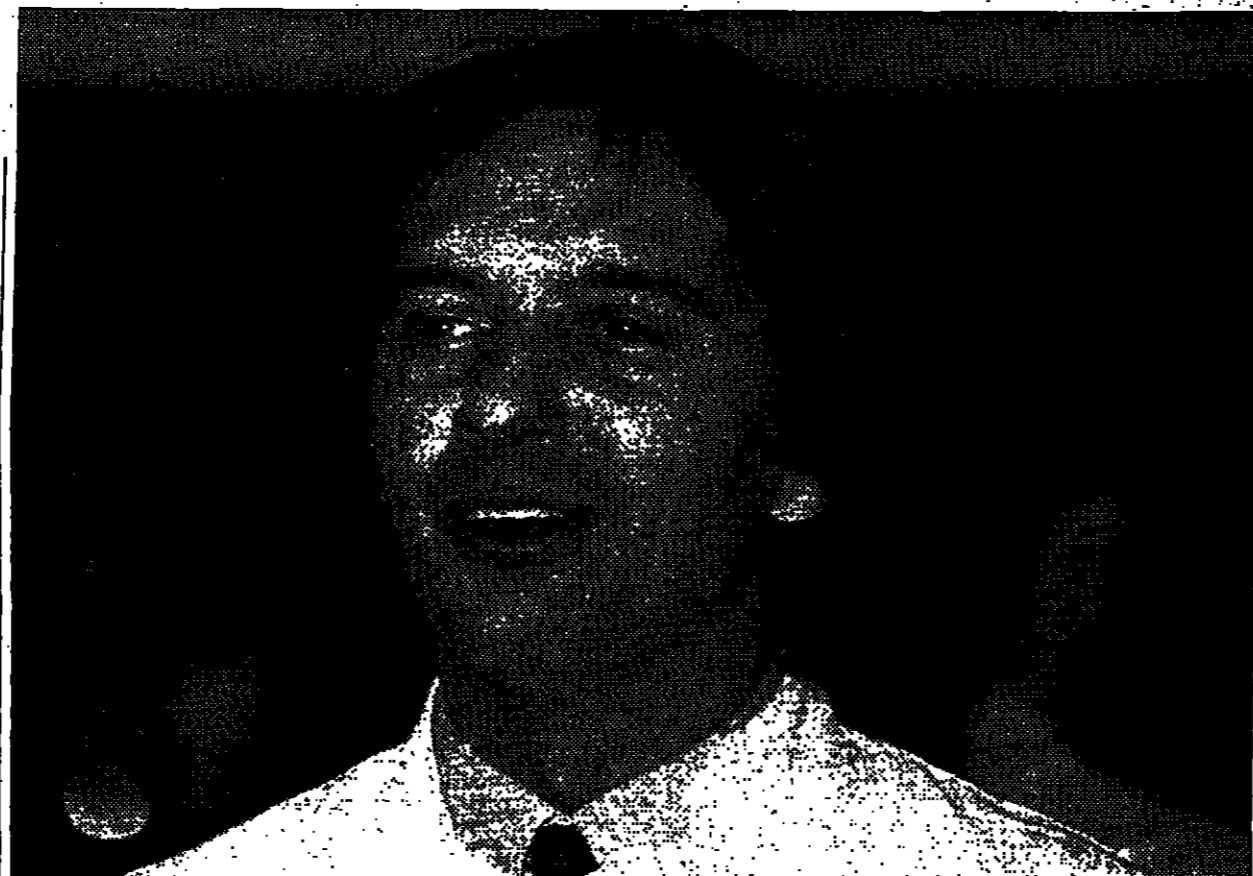
Le Petit Blanc is Mr Blanc's first restaurant since his other restaurant, now Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, won two Michelin stars. Celebrities packed out the launch party, with Richard Branson arriving in a rickshaw.

Mr Blanc went ahead with changes to the original planning permission without seeking the approval of the council.

He changed the frontage, installed a disabled entrance, and put in chiller units, although Oxford's planning officer said it was common for restaurants to jump the gun on such matters.

Yesterday a delegation of local residents met Mr Blanc and the restaurant manager to sort out their differences. The manager assured them that diners who book by phone would be asked to park several hundred yards away.

One resident said the management had been very pleasant but she did not feel the neighbours' concerns were a top priority for a restaurant trying to get established.



Raymond Blanc: 'No master moulded me. I am self-taught, so I am not encumbered with the paraphernalia of haute cuisine'

Profile

The outsider who created his own flavour

Lacey Manning

WITH the establishment of Le Petit Blanc, Raymond Blanc has established the Oxfordshire area as a centre of culinary excellence.

Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, his flagship restaurant, has consistently obtained two covered Michelin stars for its owner. And Blanc has become an industry in his own right, with the obligatory "super-chef" cookery books and television programme. Blanc Mince, the book which accompanied his 1994 television series, sold 40,000 copies in four months.

Blanc, born in France in 1949, did not start cooking until he was 25, teaching himself and refusing to follow recipes. "I did not have a master who wanted to mould me to his style. I am self-taught, so I am not encumbered with all the paraphernalia of haute cuisine."

He is passionate about

the food he cooks and the attention to detail borders on obsessiveness. He once declared: "I just want to show the beauty of the flavour and texture of grouse or lobster or salad leaf. Even when I peel a carrot, I think out how to produce the flavour better."

While Blanc's dishes remain out of the price range of many, he has made his fare more accessible, as the sole consultant for in-flight food on Virgin Atlantic Airways, and he was previously a consultant to Waitrose, the supermarket chain.

Last year he created the Raymond Blanc Scholarship, allowing the recipient to spend a year working in

Le Manoir's kitchens. The reason, he said, was "to give someone else the opportunity of doing what I did."

His current problems are not his first run-in with the authorities in Oxford. In 1992, magistrates banned him for driving for six months following a speeding offence, and the following year he was fined £5,500 for two kitchen safety offences after a kitchen accident.

The combination of a stroke and financial problems threatened the existence of Le Manoir in the early 1990s, but Blanc persevered, and the Blancs have expanded.

No charges against wife who killed

Prosecutors have decided against charging a woman who stabbed her husband to death with any crime after she told police of the violence she had endured.

Susan Murphy, aged 38, suffered years of abuse at the hands of her drunken husband Robert before she knifed him in self-defence.

She stabbed him through the heart after he attacked her with a wooden chopping board at their home in Christchurch, Dorset.

An inquest yesterday in Poole, Dorset, returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr Murphy, aged 41.

Mrs Murphy was charged with murder but the charge was dropped after consultation between police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

She told officers: "If he had hit me I wouldn't be here today. I struck him with the knife. I asked him to move his feet and he just flipped. He came at me and slammed my head against the wall, knocking it against the chair."

"I managed to push him away and ran into the kitchen. He came after me, his eyes bulging and glazed. He was going to hit me with the board and had me backed into a corner. I grabbed the knife and told him stay away."

The inquest heard that after two years of marriage Mr Murphy lost his job as a plumber and developed a drink problem while also becoming increasingly violent to his wife.

On one occasion he tried to strangle her. Another time he stabbed her in the neck with a fork. On the day of the fatal stabbing, Mrs Murphy began vacuuming and disturbed her husband who was sitting on the sofa.

She asked him to move his feet but he became abusive and chased her into the kitchen. He grabbed the board and said: "I'm going to ram this down your neck."

After she stabbed her husband, she called the police and got neighbours to help her husband, who was lying in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor.

He was taken to hospital but died later that day.

A statement from Mrs Murphy read at the inquest by Detective Constable Anthony Rose revealed more of the violence she endured.

"There's violence towards me for the slightest reason," she said. "The other week he stabbed me in the neck with a fork saying 'This is what you are meant to eat with'. This was because I had been eating with a spoon because it was easier."

Next-door neighbour Steve Pigdley said Mrs Murphy told him after the stabbing: "He came at me with a cutting board in his hand and was going to hit me with it."

"He had been saying 'I'll show you who is boss, I'll show you what power is'. He banged my head against the wall."

In other similar cases — the high profile being that of Sara Thornton — women who have killed abusive husbands have been tried and convicted.

Ms Thornton was convicted of murdering her drunken husband and sentenced to life imprisonment.

She won the right to a retrial and was convicted of manslaughter in May. She was freed as she had already served more than five years in jail.

Lords extend asylum grace

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE House of Lords last night blew a hole in the Government's asylum legislation as bishops warned that the withdrawal of social security benefits from most asylum seekers cast a shadow over Britain's reputation as "a compassionate and Christian country".

Peers voted by 158 votes to 135 to change a key provision of the bill so as to give asylum seekers three days grace — instead of a single day — to claim refugee status on arrival without losing access to state help while a decision is made.

The defeat came as the Government pushed through emergency amendments to the Asylum Bill by 153 to 140 votes to overturn the defeat it suffered in the Court of Appeal 11 days ago. The senior judges ruled that not only was the decision to withdraw state benefits from most asylum seekers illegal in the way it was done, but also said it should not be tolerated in a civilised society. The Appeal Court judges said refugees were left with a choice between destitution or giving up their asylum claim. More than 8,000 people have been affected since the changes were introduced in February.

Last night's defeat is expected to affect a significant number of asylum seekers because Refugee Council figures show that 80 per cent lodge a claim within two days. Many genuine refugees did not claim on the day of arrival because of ignorance, confusion and disorientation.

It was backed by three bishops and the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson. The Bishop of Lincoln told ministers that the legislation in its original form "cast a dark shadow over our claim to be a compassionate and Christian country".

After the vote Labour's home affairs spokesman, Lord McIntosh, said the effect of the defeat was to give asylum seekers three days after their arrival in Britain to lodge a claim for refugee status before losing any entitlement to housing benefit, income support, child benefit and council tax benefit while their claim was determined.

"The Government is still wrong to withdraw benefits in this way but this will make a difference to an asylum seeker who is too fearful to apply for asylum immediately. The statistics show that arrival is just as likely to be a genuine refugee as the person who applies at the port of entry." The Liberal Democrat spokesman, Earl Russell, said it did not make the legislation acceptable but it did "cut one bar from the window of the prison cell".

Lord Mackay of Arduengish, for the Government, insisted the measures were necessary as 34,000 people a year were receiving state benefits while their asylum claims were processed. The claims then proved to be unfounded. In future those who succeeded in getting refugee status would have their benefit payments backdated.

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Outbreaks of dissent conceal inner discipline as Labour paper looms

Michael White and Rebecca Smithers

TELEPHONE callers to the Gwent home of the Labour MP Paul Flynn on Sunday may have overheard his wife, Samantha, shout out "He's an awkward bugger" by way of explaining her husband's protest letter to Tony Blair.

At dawn yesterday the MP for Newport West was at it again. "We are producing documents, like the one on pensions on Friday, that are timid and anaemic," he protested on the airwaves. But Mr Flynn's outspoken comments against "autocratic" leadership make him one of an increasingly rare breed.

Anyone who doubts the Prussian thrust of new Labour discipline need only have heard Ron Davies, shadow Welsh secretary, doing his duty over the new devolution policy on BBC Radio 4's World at One yesterday.

It cannot have been an easy interview for the MP for Caerphilly, but he did not put a foot wrong. At Westminster, as well as among grassroots activists, the disciplined will win the general election is strong in Labour ranks.

He denied any "complete fabrication". Mr Flynn's claims that he had been told he must accept Mr Blair's devolution U-turn or resign. "I had a very lengthy, a very cordially conversation with Tony Blair," said Mr Davies. "It was my decision to agree I should make a statement calling for a referendum."

All of which has made some

The awkward squad unhappy at toeing Blair's line



PAUL FLYNN: Aged 61, MP for Newport West since 1987. Has unorthodox views on nuclear weapons and medical uses of illegal drugs but is respected by colleagues for his independence of mind.



TAM DALYELL: Aged 65, MP for West Lothian, now Linlithgow, since 1962. Has waged 20-year campaign against ill-conceived devolution plans and attacked last week's pre-legislative referendum plan as "vacuous".



DIANE ABBOTT: Aged 42, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987. First black woman MP and left-wing Campaign group member has frequently landed herself in hot water with Labour leadership, particularly since election to national executive committee.



ALAN SIMPSON: Aged 47, MP for Nottingham South since 1992. Cited within Labour's office as backbencher who most irks Tony Blair. Leading Eurosceptic and secretary of Campaign group threatens attempts to retain unity over Europe, and has also opposed Labour "hypocrisy" over education.

MPs curious to know why the leadership has raised questions of greater discipline, of nationally vetted lists for candidates and of weeding out colleagues whose loyalty or competence is in doubt.

After one left-right civil war and four Tory elections wins the Parliamentary Labour Party is a far more

disciplined body than it was when Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan ran a government and Neil Kinnock battled to knock it into order.

That is as true on the left, where Dennis Skinner has always been a highly disciplined trouble-maker, always a party man, as on the right, where individuals sometimes make

waves — Paul Flynn or a Tam Dalyell — on idiosyncratic or personal causes. But even on central issues, Europe or economic management, the sceptics, the Keynesians and the socialists campaign with relative restraint.

The paper which has caused trouble, written by general secretary Tom Saw-

yer, is unconnected with this week's launch of the Road to the Manifesto programme, to be debated at Labour's national executive today.

The Sawyer paper concerns future relations between a Labour government and the party at large, how the NEC should avoid falling out with the cabinet — as it did in the

1970s — and how MPs ought to be better vetted for competence as well as loyalty.

Where the Sawyer paper collided with The Road show was in crystallising the sense of unease of many MPs. They respect and admire Blair's will to win but fear the lack of consultation, the ruthless policy switches, the imposition of policies which would once have been anathema.

"We are not Pavlovian dogs. There is too much macho stuff coming out of the leader's office," said left-winger Kevin McNamara.

Yesterday the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was drafted into the launch of Labour's health policy document to kill off claims that the dissent was a serious threat to Mr Blair's leadership.

Mr Brown said Mr Flynn's views were "not representative" of those of the wider party.

The executive of the cross-party Scottish Constitutional Convention yesterday agreed to disagree on the issue of a devolution referendum in Scotland's *Scotland's Choice* zone. After a meeting in Edinburgh, Labour and the Liberal Democrats emerged to emphasise their commitment to a Scottish parliament.

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Lib Dems — Labour's partner in the eight-year-old convention — attacked Tory and Scottish National Party disdain for the proposed Edinburgh legislature rather than Labour's policy reversal.

In Blair too dictatorial? MPs' views, page 6

Welsh Lib Dem leader tells of workload strain on his family

Michael White Political Editor

LIBERAL Democrats in the Welsh stronghold of Montgomery last night began their search for a candidate to succeed Alex Carlile, after their MP announced he would stand down at the coming election to help care for his teenage daughter.

At an emotional, sometimes humorous, Westminster press conference, Mr Carlile, aged 48, and his wife, Frances, made clear that the barrister MP had decided to abandon his political career — as home affairs spokesman and leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats — because of the additional strain placed on family life by his workload.

The couple revealed that Ruth, aged 15, youngest of their three daughters, has an acute depressive illness and has become a psychiatric inpatient. "It is clear to me that I can play an important part in Ruth's eventual recovery, but only if I am more a part of Ruth's life than my activities as an MP have enabled me to be," Mr Carlile said.

Mrs Carlile said: "This has been a stressful and difficult decision for Alex. He is a person of strong loyalties — to his constituents, to his party and to his family. It has taken us all some time to adjust to the extremely slow pace of

recovery from mental illness and the time needed to help Ruth. He just wants to be there for her."

Mr Carlile said some MPs' children "suffer through" the pressures of political life and long parental absences. Others did not. "Ruth and I are very close," he said, yet she had often been asleep when he got home from the Commons during his 13 years as a member — and still asleep when he left for work next day. He will now resume his career at the Bar.

He predicted that the new Lib Dem candidate would not only hold his constituency — "he might be a bit more interesting than me and get a bigger majority" — but would see the party gain two or three more Welsh seats at the election, including Conwy.

Apart from a brief interlude, Montgomery has been Liberal for a century or more. Mr Carlile's majority, 5,208, is 17 per cent. Yesterday his local chairman, Daniel Munnford of Welshpool, said he had been a "fantastic MP" whose wit and intelligence would be sorely missed.

The party leader, Paddy Ashdown, praised Mr Carlile's courage both in his decision and in tackling difficult issues in the Commons.

He also had a lawyer's Ashdown for abuse, said Mr Ashdown. "He never takes offence after he's abused you."



Alex Carlile, who will quit politics at the election to help care for his daughter, with his wife Frances yesterday

Harman promises action on patient appointments

Personalised system aimed at stemming flight from NHS

David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday repackaged its health policy to appeal directly to middle-class voters with a promise to introduce a personalised appointment system for hospitals and community health services.

Harriet Harman, shadow health secretary, acknowledged that the idea could be

criticised as of relatively low priority, but insisted it was essential to stem the flow of people into private health care.

"As the Tories force patients into the private sector, the NHS becomes less comprehensive in its population coverage," Ms Harman said as she gave some further details of Labour's plans for the NHS in the run-up to the launch on Thursday of the party's draft manifesto document. "As it becomes less comprehensive, it

loses broader public support as taxpayers become reluctant to pay for services they no longer get. That trend must be stopped in its tracks and reversed."

Under Labour's commitment, patients would get a choice of when they were treated. Although details are scanty, the party is citing systems at the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals' gynaecology unit and the Royal Liverpool University hospital's breast cancer clinic.

In the latter case, GPs are able to book out-patient appointments direct with consultants and 95 per cent of patients are said to receive test

results the same day, Henry McLeish, shadow health minister, said Labour would give the health service a new lease of life as a public service responsive to people's changing expectations. "Patients want the NHS to fit in with their lives, rather than having to fit their lives around the NHS."

Ms Harman said: "If it is said that this is the wrong priority, and that might be the case, the answer is that people's number one concern is how the NHS meets their needs and that is why people go private."

Labour yesterday also promised to restore GPs' free-

dom to refer patients to any hospital provider of their choice, saving the £22 million annual cost of the existing system of "extra-contractual referrals", and said it would find another £80 million a year for patient care by ordering further cuts in bureaucracy.

All trusts and health authorities would be ordered to cut management costs to "at least the current English average". An £80 million saving would represent about 3 per cent in cash terms and would be paid for services and how the government contain NHS expenditure.

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Services Management, expressed alarm at what she called the "repeated attack" on NHS managers and questioned the apparent plan to apply a single yardstick to trusts of all sizes and kinds.

Labour had still failed to provide a real blueprint for the running of the NHS, Ms Caines said. "If the system of extra-contractual referrals is to be ended, and patients are to have more freedom of choice, how will providers be paid for services and how will the government contain NHS expenditure?"

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Whitehall recruiting change

MOVES to inject a new culture into Whitehall, with more accountants and economists and fewer arts graduates, were announced yesterday, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

Plans disclosed in a white paper include reserving a third of all "fast stream" recruits — the mandarins of the future — for graduates with science and engineering degrees.

The Government also plans to recruit many more middle managers from outside the Civil Service, and to challenge the traditional assumption that recruits join for life.

It is to the Duchy's bankers that the Prince has gone, cap in hand, for a cool £20m loan. The time has come to throw money at a problem — and that problem is Princess Diana.

Ruaridh Nicoll

G2 cover story

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: Environment questions. PM's questions. Broadcasting Bill, report. Social Security (Disability Living Allowance and Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations.

House of Lords: Aycliffe and Immigration Bill, and of third reading debate. Railway Heritage Bill, committee. Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, third reading. Armed Forces Bill, report. Energy Conservation Bill, committee. Child Benefit, Child Support and Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations, Jobseeker's Allowance (Pilot Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations, Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill, Commons amendments. Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Bill, committee. Defamation Bill, Commons amendments.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Mostar voters split along ethnic divide

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

PROVISIONAL election results from Mostar yesterday showed the vote largely split between Muslim and Croat nationalists in the divided Bosnian city...

The results sugar badly for plans to create power-sharing institutions, and will almost certainly force the EU to extend a blow to multi-ethnic politics...

According to unofficial returns published by Mostar's joint electoral commission, headed by the Democratic Party of Action (SDA)...

Briton asked to help inquiry

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE Belgian police have asked the European Commission to lift the diplomatic immunity of a British former senior official...

Mr Mayhew is a former acting director of the Commission's tourism unit, which is embroiled in a bribery and corruption scandal...

In February Michael Emerson, a former EU ambassador to Russia, left under a cloud after being accused of a conflict of interest...

According to the lawsuit filed against him at LA Superior Court, Travolta resented the way that the director was trying to, like, direct him.

G2 page 4

Karadzic keeps his hand in

Julian Borger in Pale

THE SERB Democratic Party (SDS), which controls the Serb-held half of Bosnia, was huddled behind closed doors yesterday...

There could be no clearer demonstration of how the international community's failure to lever the Bosnian Serb leader out of power...

A source in the Serb stronghold of Pale said Mr Karadzic held of Pale has since been stiffed...

Up to now, you've been hearing different things from Pale and Banja Luka - the new purry lists will bring things more into line...

Mr Karadzic's flexing of political muscle also exposed Nato's limitations. The Nato-led peacekeeping force, I-For, said last month it had increased its patrols in Pale...

Mr Bildt's deputy, Michael Steiner, issued a challenge to his own putative employers, the major powers, to make

Few of Nato's 60,000 peacekeepers would recognise the Bosnian Serb leader if he shook them by the hand

zic if they meet them in the normal course of their duties. But there was little sign of I-For in the mountain village yesterday...

rejoice from Stockholm yesterday evening - but insisted that "whatever is done has the full support of the international community"

There is a danger of going through 'unprof-isation' again, said a veteran UN officer...

Officials in the high representative's office were fuming yesterday over anonymous

remarks to the press by Nato officers ridiculing Mr Bildt's apparent gaffe. They in turn accuse I-For of doing everything possible to avoid confronting Mr Karadzic.

Both Nato officers and Mr Bildt's aides are hopeful that the campaign to get rid of Mr Karadzic will be given fresh impetus after the second round of the Russian elections tomorrow...

International cohesion is further undermined by persistent off-the-record sniping between Nato and Mr Bildt's office. Each institution wants the other to deal with Mr Karadzic.



Hillary Clinton waves to a crowd of several thousand people in Bucharest's Revolution Square yesterday after pledging support for Romania's fledgling democracy. Mrs Clinton was beginning an 11-day tour of central and eastern Europe

Yeltsin leans on daughter's arm

James Meek in Moscow

WHEN rumours about Boris Yeltsin's state of health began to spread last week, the Kremlin rushed out film showing a wan, puffy leader meeting his inner circle of campaign aides...

Ms Dyachenko claims that Mr Yeltsin's all-male entourage tried to marginalise her role in the campaign and maintain the age she mentioned Gen Korzhakov as one of those she found "particularly difficult"

Most observers expect Ms Dyachenko to return to housewifely motherhood after the election, but if Mr Yeltsin wins he faces a debilitating struggle to assert

magazine in April. "There is a certain distance between the president and his aides, even with the closest advisers," he said.

The idea of making government a family business seems unlikely to catch on

his authority in a reshaped political landscape, and he may need people he can trust in the face of the assertive General Alexander Lebed.

Although the Communist-nationalist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, has two women on his campaign team, an economist and a former cosmonaut...

Asked recently what she would think about her grandchildren going into politics, Mr Yeltsin's wife Naina recalled: "No, no, no, no, no," she said. "It's a very hard job."

Leader comment, page 8

Minister warns Kohl not to cut defence budget

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY'S defence minister is warning that a diet of budget-cutting to get the country lean enough for the single European currency could jeopardise European defence projects...

Volker Rube is mounting a strong rear-guard action aimed at exempting the defence budget from the tough austerity drive led by the finance minister, Theo Waigel.

project with Britain, Italy and Spain would need to be scrapped, and that other joint Franco-German projects for spy satellites and helicopters may need to be dropped.

Volker Rube is mounting a strong rear-guard action aimed at exempting the defence budget from the tough austerity drive led by the finance minister, Theo Waigel.

the budgetary and debt tests next year. "Everyone must make a contribution to the savings package," Mr Waigel said yesterday in Munich.

Mr Waigel wants to trim defence next year, and another billion marks from defence next year and 12 billion between now and the end of the century.

News in brief

Russia tests missiles

Ballistic missiles were fired by three Russian nuclear submarines in the Sea of Okhotsk in the Far East in an unprecedented naval exercise, the Russian navy said yesterday.

Tapie sentenced

A French court gave the bankrupt businessman and former cabinet minister Bernard Tapie a two-year suspended jail sentence yesterday for fraud.

Road rage deaths

Two people were killed and 12 injured when an argument between two motorists in Akkar, Lebanon, was decided with gunfire.

Chernobyl leak

A small radiation leak occurred in one of two working

reactors at Chernobyl power station, Ukraine's nuclear authority said yesterday. An engineer at the plant said the leak posed no threat to staff or the environment. - Reuter.

Iraq plan opposed

Iraq's efforts to resume oil exports to buy food and medicine ran into trouble yesterday when the US said it opposes Baghdad's plan for distributing goods bought with the profits. - AP.

Death sentences

A special court yesterday sentenced three Bahraini men to death for a fire bomb attack that killed seven Bangladeshis in a restaurant. It is only the second time in 20 years that death sentences have been returned there. - AP.

Sex tourism case

Dutch legal authorities have been asked by the Philippines to prosecute a Dutch man accused of sex offences committed in the Philippines in what would be the first sex tourism case in the Netherlands. The justice ministry said yesterday. - Reuter.

'Mobster' arrest

A lawyer considered to be one of the brains behind orga-

nised crime in Calabria, Italy, was arrested yesterday after two years on the run. Giorgio De Stefano, aged 40, was hiding in a truck when police raided the flat in which he was staying. - AP.

Journalist beaten

A journalist who accused the Egyptian interior minister's sons of corruption, Magdi Hussein, was beaten yesterday by seven men he claimed were sent by the government as a warning. - AP.

Peace gesture

Greek Cypriot taxi drivers yesterday used green cabs as symbols of peace on the "Green Line" dividing the south from the Turkish Cypriot north. - Reuter.

Heroin seizure

Italian police in Naples yesterday seized 84 kilograms of heroin - worth \$300 million - and arrested a German accused of seeking to sell it to local mobsters. - AP.

Booze banned

The president of the Islamic Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean has banned imports of alcohol except by diplomats or to be sold in hotels to foreigners. - Reuter.

Dominican Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

Victory to B

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Uncritical mass... More than 1,000 youths take the Chinese Communist Party oath in an induction ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on the party's 75th anniversary yesterday. A stern anniversary warning was issued to wayward cadres to pay more attention to socialist politics and to stay away from corruption, self-interest and crime

Boarding of plane prompts fears about freedom of travel in and out of Hong Kong after hand-over

Chinese police halt petition mission

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

A GROUP of pro-democracy politicians flew home to Hong Kong yesterday after Chinese police boarded their plane in Beijing, confiscated travel documents, and barred them from disembarking to deliver a 60,000-signature petition calling on China not to abolish the colony's elected legislature.

The abortive nine-hour mission coincided with the start of the one-year countdown to China's takeover on July 1 1997 and heightened concern about Beijing's intolerance of dissent after the colony becomes a "special administrative region".

The saga dominated radio and television news broadcasts in Hong Kong throughout the day, overshadowing a formal change of name by the now no-longer-Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and the broadcast of a flamboyant one-year-to-go variety show in Beijing.

It is ironic that Hong Kong is returning to China but the people of Hong Kong, or some of us, are not even allowed into China, said Lee Cheuk-yan, a trade unionist and legislator.

Zhang Junsheng, the deputy director of China's *de jure* embassy, the Xinhua News Agency, said the flight member group had been warned not to go.

Most ethnic Chinese living in Hong Kong normally have the right to visa-free travel to the mainland. China has denied the existence of any blacklist.

White House turns caped crusader to beat Hollywood 'superheroes'

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

IN WHAT could be an uneven contest, the Clinton administration has picked a fight with Mighty Morphin Power Rangers — television cartoon superheroes idolised by children and loathed by parents the world over.

Marking the latest in a string of attacks on Hollywood values by Washington, the vice-president, Al Gore, criticised the TV characters, who have inspired a feature-length film and a multi-million-dollar industry in spin-off toys.

Shows like the Power Rangers tell children that the best way to solve a problem or win an argument is to get violent — to kick, to karate chop, sometimes to launch a missile.

continues to cosy up to Hollywood's biggest stars, including Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks and Sharon Stone, who are all generous benefactors.

Vietnam reform comes at price

Communist leaders are reluctant to loosen their grip, reports Nick Cumming-Bruce at the final day of the Hanoi congress

VIETNAM'S Communist leaders have announced that they will push ahead with reforms aimed at creating a market economy over the next few years but must step up security to preserve their grip on power as they do so.

sweeping powers claimed for the standing committee. To applause from other delegates, southern Tran Trong Tan argued that the committee's powers were excessive and "undemocratic".

Dominicans give narrow victory to Balaguer's man

Phil Gannon Latin America correspondent

LATIN AMERICA'S most durable politician, President Joaquín Balaguer of the Dominican Republic, has once again outsmarted his opponents. In a close-fought run-off election his chosen successor, Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), defeated the social democrat José Francisco Peña Gómez, who was making his third presidential bid.

Balaguer's strategy was to see how he could end up with the largest quota of power, despite not being president, commented a historian, Bernardo Vega.

Barbados considers ending its 370-year link with the Crown

Eric Murre in Bridgetown

BARBADOS, regarded as one of the most English of the Caribbean islands, is reconsidering its links with the monarchy. Today a 10-member constitutional commission begins a year-long review of the constitution's allocation of powers.

Mr Owen declined to give his own opinion on the future role of the Queen. "It is a matter that must necessarily be addressed. There will be strong views on both sides of the issue," he said.

News in brief

Mongolia votes to end an era

MONGOLIA got a change of government yesterday for the first time in 75 years when the Democratic Union coalition won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections, topping the former communists. The Democrats captured 48 of the 76 seats in the Great Khural, or parliament, up from six in 1992, surprising diplomats and the opposition itself.

Suu Kyi's marriage 'example'

BURMESE official media warned yesterday that the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was setting an example for other women to follow her and marry foreign men. "She should try to abandon politics and co-operate in serving the people by using what she has studied," said the commentary in state-run newspapers.

Union challenges Netanyahu

ISRAELI hospitals, airports and state-run radio stations shut down for an hour yesterday in protest at the new Prime Minister's privatisation plans. The strike by 400,000 workers, backed by the Histadrut trade union, indicated the strong opposition to Benjamin Netanyahu's economic measures.

Spain still ready to woo ETA

SPAIN said yesterday it would continue its conciliatory moves towards jailed ETA rebels despite the Basque separatist guerrillas not to prolong a one-week truce.

Aborigines fight euthanasia

SCORES of aborigines travelled from outback camps to pack Darwin's Supreme Court yesterday for the opening hearing of the legal challenge to the Northern Territory's new euthanasia law.

Party craze for cats' drug

A VETERINARY anaesthetic used on dogs and cats has become a popular drug among Swedish youth at rave parties and techno nightclubs, the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported yesterday.

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South Africa	£4.70	£8.20	43%
Germany/France	£2.11	£2.96	29%
Nigeria	£7.05	£11.05	35%
Hong Kong	£4.11	£7.30	44%
Pakistan	£9.16	£12.60	27%

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Don't push Labour too far

Tony Blair is nearing the limits of tolerance

WITHOUT party unity there will be no Labour election victory. Without that victory there will be no Labour government. That government is the only realistic alternative to the Conservatives. Does it therefore follow that in the cause of achieving a Labour government, no dissent against the party leadership can be tolerated...

In some respects it is the modesty of recent revolts that is striking, not their strength. There is, however, little doubt that very many more in the party have held their tongues rather than add to Mr Blair's problems. To dismiss all the outbursts merely as disloyalty would be absurd. In the main, they reflect genuine disagreement about substantive matters of policy...

Avoid General Lebed at all costs

Russia should start praying for Boris Yeltsin's health

BORIS YELTSIN has urged the Russian voters not to allow their "grievances and tiredness" to sway tomorrow's vote. But what if Boris himself is too tired? It may only be a sore throat, or the fatigue of a two-stage campaign, but Mr Yeltsin's backers must now be on their knees and praying very hard...

created - no names, but only one strong candidate. Wielding his sword, he has already swept off the scene various rivals in the president's camp. His role as blunt military man, gruff voice and all, has attracted quite a lot of support outside Russia among those desperate to interpret what is happening...

An unscientific solution

Removing government funding will not help science

IF Terence Kealey did not exist, ministers would have to invent him: a scientist who believes governments should not fund basic science. After the laissez faire economist, meet the laissez faire scientist. Moreover, as readers of our Online pages will know, a scientist who can write. His article last month collected some "hear, hears" in this column: his wish to see scientists better paid, his dismay over the huge differential between city dealers and researchers, and his outrage over the fact that Cambridge science professors, even those who are Fellows of the Royal Society, earn only £37,500. But in his latest book - and in a debate last night - he goes too far suggesting not just that commercial companies will step in where governments withdraw their science funding but that such a withdrawal will lead to an increased expenditure on science.

Undoubtedly science thrived without government support in the last century. Undoubtedly ingenious people centuries ago invented technology - steam-power and telescopes - without understanding the physics of the first or recognising the scientific potential of the second. Scientists could just catch up in those days. The explanation came after the invention of steam-power - Galileo showed how a fun instrument at fairsgrounds could transform the laws of the universe by looking at the moon. But the onus now is on understanding the science before the technology can be developed particularly in the field of pharmaceuticals and medicine. Of course good science still requires a lot of intuition, luck and obsession. But we also need a more coherent strategy to end the shortage of science teachers, encourage British firms to pick up the breakthroughs of our resident research teams - and meet Terence Kealey's complaint about academic salaries.



Letters to the Editor
Islington rule, not OK

TONY BLAIR'S imposition of a referendum on his Scottish party (Letters June 28) was more indicative of new Labour than the issue of the referendum itself. It was the way it was done that caused the damage. The London-origined imposition on people who had remained loyal when others deserted Labour en masse was a sad spectacle. The Blair magic is less well received here than among the Islington policymakers, principle still playing an important role in Scottish politics. The British identity has for us become an embarrassment and more of a burden than anything positive, especially with regard to Europe. Too often, legitimate aspirations are met by the constitutional dialogue of the deaf. "We know what you want, we know what is good for you." Many of us suspect that even the very mild form of self-government proposed by the constitutional convention is going to be ditched by new Labour on the altar of southern votes. Steve Williams, 11 Clifton Manor, Aberdeen AB24 4DX.

I HAVE no idea which, if any, "sources" close to Tony Blair made the fatuous remark that "his toughness on devolution will play well in the Home Counties" (Blair facing loyalty fight, July 1). But, as the usual chief suspect in the "sources" stakes, and as the source who dutifully returned all the calls I made on Sunday, can I repeat what I said to him - that the referendum plan is designed to help Labour deliver on our commitment to set up a Scottish parliament with tax-varying powers. That commitment exists because it is right, not because it appeals to any particular section of the public. The idea that the voters of the Home Counties are deciding which party to support on the basis of Tony Blair's approach to the Scottish parliament is absurd. They are deciding their vote on the Tory record and on what Labour will do in the areas of concern to them - the economy, jobs, health, education and crime chief among them. Alastair Campbell, Press Secretary to Tony Blair, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR lead article says it all. "Sources" inform us that Blair's tough line on devolution will win support in the Home Counties. Perhaps Jim Callaghan felt the same way when trying (unsuccessfully) to get Scotland and Wales off the Westminster agenda in 1978-79. Perhaps David Lloyd George was looking at parliamentary arithmetic when trying to partition Ireland out of sight (disastrously) in the 1920s. But there is real life going on in the regions and nations outside of the Home Counties. The devolution of real decision-making matters. It is not just another opinion poll game. And real life has a habit of defeating governments (and aspiring governments) which focus too parochially on their own local, home county concerns. John Nicholson, 58 Langdale Road, Manchester M14 5FN.

Devolution is not a quaint hobby-horse for ungrateful Celts to ride on the political fringe; nor is it a means to bring democracy. Devolution is a practical response to a moral question, namely: "Is it right for one country to govern another?" Danny Kilbride, 75 Llandaff Road, Cardiff.

No rave review

SOUTH Yorkshire Police edges out of its way to determine the extent of inappropriate behaviour amongst its employees (Police in dock on sex harassment, June 28). It finds that seven out of eight people are content and 94 per cent are happy at their work. But recognising that some still understand what a public stand. No judging - we come out with the results and with recommendations which will champion those one in eight who feel unfairly treated and put on notice to those few who consciously behave badly that their days with us will be numbered if they don't mend their ways.

Golden rules for golden goals

IT IS EASY to see why the Euro 96 golden goal system fails in every respect. It could be successfully adapted as follows: the first goal in any knock-out game should be golden, so that if there is a draw at full or after extra time, then the first goal wins. This would encourage attacking play from the outset without denying the conceding team the opportunity to fight back - and win.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: A number of threads, not all of them purely nostalgic, draw us back to the old, grey stone town of Bruton. Although not nowadays a homecoming, the journey, winding a narrow way between hedges and past rounded green hillsides to the point where, down in a hollow, the jumbled roofscape, ruined dovecote and perpendicular church appear, always feels like a pleasurable small adventure.

The house that Richard built

IN PUTTING the case for more creative architecture (Letters July 1), Sir Richard Rogers exposes his own weakness. Where is it written that a building must be "truly creative" and, anyway, what does this mean? Why should an opera house be "a major work of art"? Does he forget that his fellow architects once described high-rise council flats and shoe-box offices in such terms?

Sir Denis Forman

SIR DENIS Forman (Letters June 28) demonstrates the irrelevance of newspaper critics in the contrasting opinions of Andrew Clements and Rodney Milnes. The critic's opinion is worth no more than that of Joe Bloggs or Basil Bighead; it is just one man's view. We must surely curse the professional critics for the alienation of true opera-lovers through the acceptance of the modern, updated, incoherent productions and cardboard sets perpetrated by such as Peter Sellers, Tim Albery, Graham Vick, Jonathan Miller, etc, etc. Lawrence Sutton, 60 Brockesby Walk, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3LZ.

Golden rules for golden goals

IF, at the end of extra time, a match is a draw, then the side which last took the lead should be judged the winner. For a 1-1 draw, the side which scored first would win. Say the score (Germany v England) went 1-0, 1-1, 2-2, 2-2, then England would win because they were the last team ahead. World sides still sit on 1-0 leads? Of course, but they would have the additional fear that if they let it become 2-1 to the opposition, they would need to score two goals in order to avoid defeat: whereas if they attacked and made it 2-0, then their opponents would need to score three goals to defeat them. Mike Wellman, 38 Kingsfield Drive, Manchester M20 6TX.

Golden rules for golden goals

PROPOSE a system of soccer scoring that would almost avoid extra time being necessary. If the scoring was changed to a rugby-type model, one goal would no longer equal one point. For example, if a goal equalled four points, hitting the post one point, a corner half a point, and perhaps each yellow card and red card counting as half and one point taken away, the negative situations seen in Euro 96 would not arise. Alan Natallin, 22 Mackintosh Road, London NW3 2LT.

JOHN VALLINS

Various small advertisements and notices, including 'A Country Diary' and 'The house that Richard built'.

Handwritten signature: John Vallins

Diary Matthew Norman

CONCERN mounts that Mr Tony Blair may be modelled upon a character in John Mortimer's Rumpole stories...

Less desire to govern, than to be the king

Commentary Hugo Young

MICHAEL Portillo lives in the real world. From this location it is difficult to function as a politician...

inefficient, which Portillo, in his previous role as Chief Secretary, had reason to discover years ago...

disaster. To the political blackmailer that always colours this process, some extra items are being added in the present case...

up behind him, some of them, no doubt out of military rather than political fraternity...

Castigating Blair's role as a CND supporter was a pathetic descent into irrelevance

graveyard of political ambition. So much for one benchmark test. What about the other?

All gain makes Britain a dull place to live in



George Monbiot

LAST week a boring-looking document found its way to my desk. It was a confidential report from Oxford City Council's Director of Property and Leisure Services...

roundabout on the other side of town, if the council will allow them to build a superstore here...

As Tony Blair shrugs off suggestions that he is leading like a dictator, four 'agonisers and modernisers' from within the Labour Party tell it how it is

Where there's a will

Tony Banks

MY starting point is clear. The Labour Party must win the next election. I also happen to believe that any Labour government is better than any Tory one...

What I am anxious about is not so much as content. This is not a cosmetic point. There are far too many policy changes originating from frontbenchers...

Tony Banks is Labour MP for Neatham North West.

Glenda Jackson

THE minority, for that is what it is, of those within the Labour movement voicing concerns over Tony Blair's leadership have short memories...

Some people are nervous about the pace of Tony Blair's modernisation but there is no one more nervous of the change in today's Labour Party than John Major...

Glenda Jackson is Labour MP for Hampstead & Highgate.

Roy Hattersley

EVERY Labour leader I have known has tried to impose his will upon the Party. Usually the pressure has been applied with proper respect for grass roots opinion...

announce that, whatever the policy forums may decide, he was going to increase the basic pension and insist on genuine non-selective secondary education throughout the country...

Tony Wright

THERE'S a nice line in Dick Crossman's diary about a section of the Labour Party never being happy unless they can convince themselves that they are being betrayed by their leaders...

It is also the job of leaders to avoid the sort of incoherent policy fudges that brought Labour so much grief in the past...

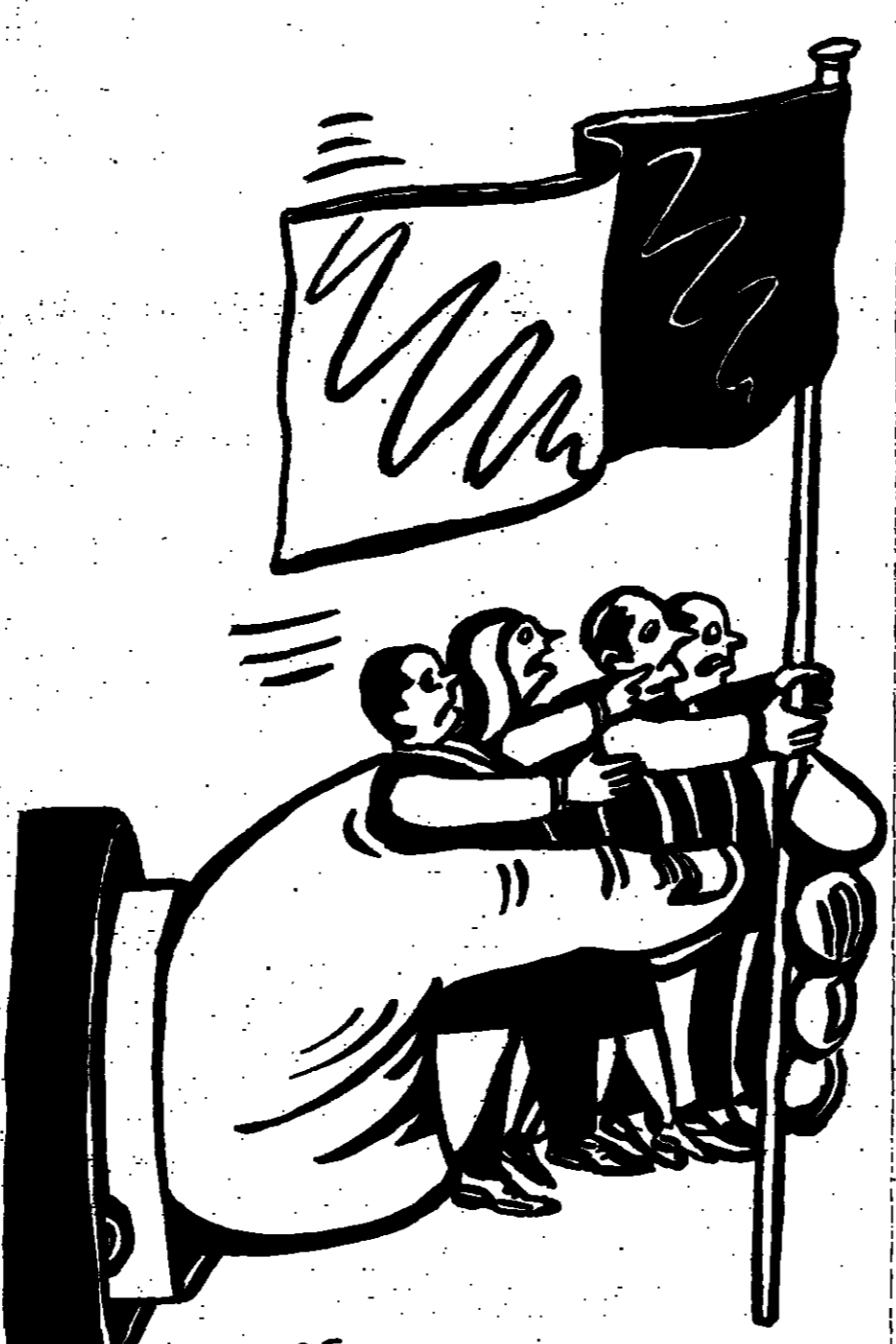
Dt Tony Wright is Labour MP for Cannock & Burntwood

Richard Butler

On a recent Saturday afternoon, word reached the Mail on Sunday that Princess Diana was shopping with a "mystery man" in Barker's...

Supplier news for the P.M. today is the birthday of his brother, Terry Major-Ball. He is 64. "Yes, well, birthday greetings and a bottle of wine would be very nice," says Terry...

TEACHERS in south west London who find their pupils unusually dopey this week are directed to a new money-making scheme at Wimbledon...



SWIFT CALL advertisement with contact information, phone numbers, and service details.

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Finance Guardian

Town and country share Clarks and Escom misery



Bleak future... staff leave the company's factory in Chard, Somerset, amid job fears generated by a wave of plant closures
PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CUFF

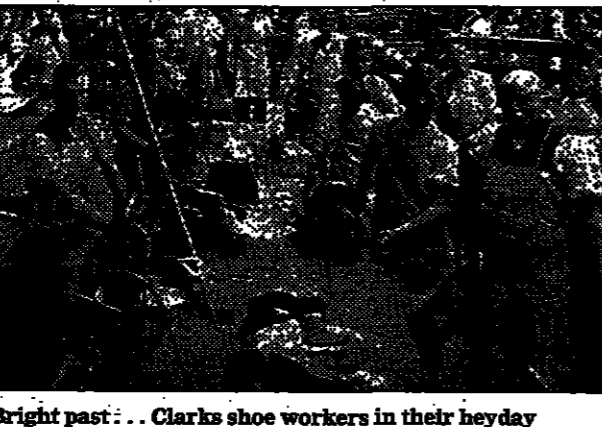
Closures cost 2,000 jobs

Roger Cowe and Chris Barrie

ALMOST 2,000 jobs were lost yesterday when shoe company C & J Clark announced three factory closures and computer retailer Escom shut 55 stores.

The shoemaking jobs cut by privately owned Clarks were in predominantly rural areas with little alternative manufacturing employment.

"Nothing surprises us any more," said John Des, district secretary of the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Trades, based in Street, Somerset. "A lot of these people have worked for Clarks for a long time - 40 years is not unusual."



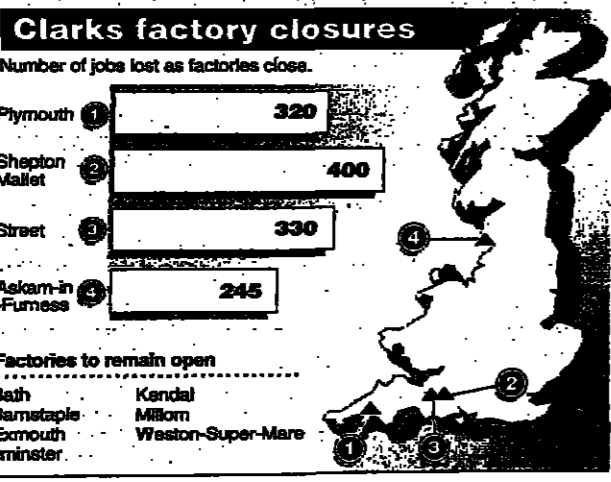
Bright past... Clarks shoe workers in their heyday

The workers at the Plymouth factory, opened in 1958, and at the Shepton Mallet base, which began producing shoes in 1946, were "gutted" and would find it difficult to find similar work, he added.

The redundancies were seized on by the Labour Party to counter government claims of improving economic conditions.

"Only days ago, Ken Clarke was trumpeting Tory successes. Today, another 1,400 families have fallen victim to Tory economic incompetence," said Labour's employment spokesman Ian McCartney. He also criticised the shoe company's management, calling on Clarks to reconsider the job cuts.

But Clarks' new chief executive, Tim Parker, who was recruited from Kenwood last September, said: "These changes are designed to strengthen and develop Clarks' worldwide business. Although most regrettable, the management team at Clarks has taken this action to



Exchange faces 'reality' with business plan

THE London Stock Exchange insisted yesterday that it has woken up to commercial reality. It has published a "medium-term business plan" to prove as much, writes Paul Murphy.

Over the next two and a half years, the central equity authority for share trading will chop another third of its workforce, bring the head count down to 550 against more than 2,000 three years ago.

The incentive has been the loss of the exchange's role in settling share transactions, with the new Crest system, developed by the Bank of England and owned by a range of stockbroking firms, taking over from the exchange-run Talisman as of next month.

Aside from those employees currently working on the doomed Talisman service, another 120 jobs will go as the exchange

reverse the decline in the firm's performance over a number of years.

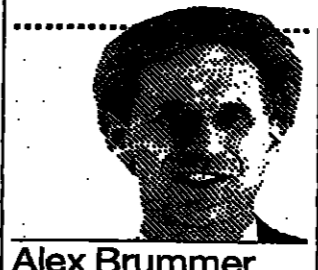
Mr Parker was recruited by the company to restore profitability and bring it to the stock market. Family shareholders originally decided that should be no later than 1998, but the company admitted last year that the deadline would not be met.

Factories at Plymouth, Shepton Mallet and Askani-Furness will close with the loss of almost 1,000 jobs. A further 410 jobs will go at the Street headquarters and at other offices around Europe. The company will continue to employ about 13,000 people in its seven UK factories and 600-strong retail chain.

A spokesman said the reorganisation of production should result in factories operating at full capacity. It was not aimed at reducing total production, although Clark will reduce its ranges, concentrating on the most popular designs.

Meanwhile, cutthroat conditions in the personal computer market have forced the German computer manufacturer and retailer Escom to close 95 stores with the loss of 227 jobs. The sites were former Rumbelows outlets, acquired from Thorn EM last year. On acquisition, Escom immediately closed 80 of the sites, 60 of which have now been sold, and plan to review the remainder after a year.

Notebook Wolfensohn leads from the front



Alex Brummer

THESSE are heady days for James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank. For the first time in more than a decade the Bank, perceived as an ineffectual, under-performing and drifting institution, is being credited with leading the global economic agenda.

Indeed, it was the Bank's plans for relieving the most highly indebted, poorest countries of their burden, which topped the bill at the G7 summit in Lyon.

Ideally Mr Wolfensohn, who was in London yesterday for a series of briefings for leading parliamentary figures including Tony Blair, would have been able to report that the debt plan was now off the drawing board and moving towards reality. But unfortunately it was moved slightly off course by the reluctance of the German government to allow the sale of International Monetary Fund gold, which would have formed an important part of the programme.

But he refuses to be disappointed by the decision by the IMF to tie its contribution to the debt relief fund to its own plans to finance the Fund's concessional loan arm. "It's Michel's problem," he says of the dilemma faced by the IMF's managing director Michel Camdessus. "He pushed the issue as far as he could," and goes on to praise his great-grandfather for Bank/IMF co-operation on the debt plan.

"He refuses to join in the criticism of some Bank officials and debt experts who have questioned the IMF's commitment on the matter."

Mr Wolfensohn is not in doubt. "What we had to do is get support for the Bank side," he says during a breakfast conversation at a discreet Knightsbridge hotel. He notes that the Bank has won unconditional support for making \$500 million (\$333 million) available for debt reduction among the poorest countries immediately and, if necessary, \$2 billion over six years.

the Bank has shied away from redistributing its surpluses in such ways because of concerns that it might undermine its "triple A" rating on the credit markets, seen as essential to the globe's biggest borrower.

But Mr Wolfensohn is dismissive of this, noting the Bank's "very strong capital," including \$120 billion of un-called resources. In fact, although the Wolfensohn period at the Bank has been seen as notable for its work in relieving the difficulties of the poorest countries, the president also has been concerned to put its finances on more of a market footing.

He takes pride in the fact that it is under his regime that countries have earned the right to borrow from the World Bank in a single currency at a half point over interbank rates, rather than in multi-currency packages. "Latin American borrowers have dollar based economies," he says, noting that it makes "no sense for them to borrow in Swiss francs or Deutschmarks." As part of this new approach the Bank is proposing to switch as much as \$100 billion of multi-currency debt, into single currency over the next two years if that is what clients want.

AMONG the reasons that Mr Wolfensohn has been able to set about change at the Bank is that he has brought some of his strongest critics on board, the non-governmental organisations such as Oxfam which over recent years have been harsh critics.

He has expended an enormous effort reaching out to NGOs, green and women's lobbies. At present the Bank is engaged in an audit of all its committed loans, which are being reassessed with regard to their contribution to the environment and women in development as well as financial performance.

Liaison with the NGOs has been established in some 40 countries in which the Bank is involved, including 25 in Africa and he has visited several of these countries and is now suggesting that senior managers like himself spend more time in rural communities living in the same conditions as those the Bank seeks to alleviate.

If there is an Achilles heel then it is Mr Wolfensohn's uncompromising management style, puncturing placency in the bank's bureaucracy by forming an inner cabinet of five managing-directors through whom he rules. He plans to impose a five and 10-year strategic plan on the institution.

He has sought to bring into this framework semi-independent agencies like the International Finance Corporation, the Bank's private sector arm, which previously had free rein.

The autocratic style does not always please: his choice as number two, former UK treasury official Rachel Lomax, is already on her way to a new job in the Welsh Office, her own country of birth. The NGOs may have been nursed along, but the Bank's staff is learning that safe bureaucratic assumptions are under constant challenge.

Dassault bows to French state merger plan

AFTER more than four months of high-level pressure and threats, Dassault Aviation, maker of the Mirage fighter-bomber, has agreed to merge with state-owned Aerospaciale to create Europe's second-biggest aircraft builder, after Britain's GEC.

Alain Juppé, the French prime minister, last night announced that opposition to a joint company from the Dassault chairman, Serge Dassault, had been overcome and the new group would be operational from next year.

The French government - keen to promote an effective rival to US and UK aerospace groups - wanted to retain control through a majority stake in the merged business but was keen that the merger terms permit a public offering as soon as possible. Mr Juppé's office said. Reports suggest that Dassault shareholders would have a 27 per cent stake.

Mr Dassault, who inherited the company in 1986 from his father, Marcel Dassault, a Gaullist MP, was told in February by President Jacques Chirac that it was in the country's interest to merge with Aerospaciale, which produces the Airbus and military helicopters.

Negotiations were difficult because Mr Dassault, whose company employs 9,500 workers, refused to talk to officials from Aerospaciale, which has a staff of 38,000. Special government representatives had to be appointed, and threats were made of nationalisation.

Charles Millon, the defence minister, reminded the reluctant Mr Dassault, whose company is 45 per cent owned by the Socialist government, that the French air force was his biggest customer.

This was interpreted as an implied threat to the company's dependence on defence requirements for 45 per cent of its sales, compared with 25 per cent for Aerospaciale.

Mr Dassault appears to have capitulated after a Belgian court issued an international arrest warrant against him.

Factory output begins to rebound

BUOYANT high-street spending is beginning to trickle down into Britain's recession-racked manufacturing sector, according to figures published yesterday.

After six successive months of decline, factory activity increased in June, according to the poll by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply - with consumer-goods producers leading the revival.

Peter Thomson, director-general of the institute, welcomed the tentative signs of a rebound in manufacturing, but warned that suppliers had discounted heavily to fill out their order books.

Prices paid by purchasing managers dropped to their lowest level since the CIPS survey began in 1991 as suppliers competed for a new wave of orders.

City commentators gave a thumbs-up to the combination of subdued cost pressures and better output, but warned against premature predictions of an end to factory gloom.

Robert Barrie, chief economist at brokers BZW, said: "This is certainly a turning point - up to now it has been all bad news. But manufacturers' problems are certainly not behind them yet - especially those exporting to Europe."

Mr Barrie said, however, that firms selling to the home market had been able to shift goods from their warehouses in June - with stocks registering the biggest fall for more than three years.

Separate figures published yesterday suggested that growth in housing market confidence had helped keep consumer spending on the boil.

The Halifax building society said house prices had jumped by 4 per cent in the year to June, despite a 0.3-point dip from May's bumper figure. The Nationwide

WH Smith closes book on boardroom link with founder

AN ERA ended at WH Smith yesterday when the newspaper and books chain announced that Philip Smith, the last remaining boardroom member of the group's founding family, was standing down with immediate effect.

WH Smith said that Mr Smith, aged 51, had decided to pursue interests outside the company after nine years as a non-executive director.

The move is the latest in a string of shake-ups at the group over the past year which has seen the departure of chief executive Sir Malcolm Field, the appointment of former Post Office boss Bill Cockburn as his replacement, and the sale last month of the group's stake in loss-making DIY chain Do-It-All.

WH Smith chairman Jeremy Hardie said: "The Smith family has been deeply involved with this company since its inception and has contributed significantly to its development into a major high street retailer."

"Today marks the end of an era, but I am sure the board and the management will ensure that the company continues to evolve and develop."

Mr Smith's great-great-grandfather, Henry Walton Smith, and his wife Anna founded



WH Smith in 1792. Starting life as a news vendor in Little Groves Street, London, the company delivered

MFI sales surge underpins hopes of housing recovery

FURNITURE manufacturer and retailer MFI yesterday highlighted growing consumer confidence by reporting that its sales for the first nine weeks of the year were 15 per cent up on last year.

Neither chairman Derek Hunt nor newly promoted chief executive John Randall could readily account for the rise, and warned it was too soon to say whether the surge would last.

"We can speculate, but anyone can speculate," said Mr Randall, who was MFI's managing director until yesterday.

MFI shares rose 5p to close at 170p as analysts speculated that the trading figures reflected the start of a boom in house sales - people traditionally order new kitchens and furniture when they move house.

But the rise in the share price also indicated that the City had given the MFI management team the benefit of the doubt over the company's results. These were 12 per cent worse than 1994, with pre-tax profit at £58.1 million.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

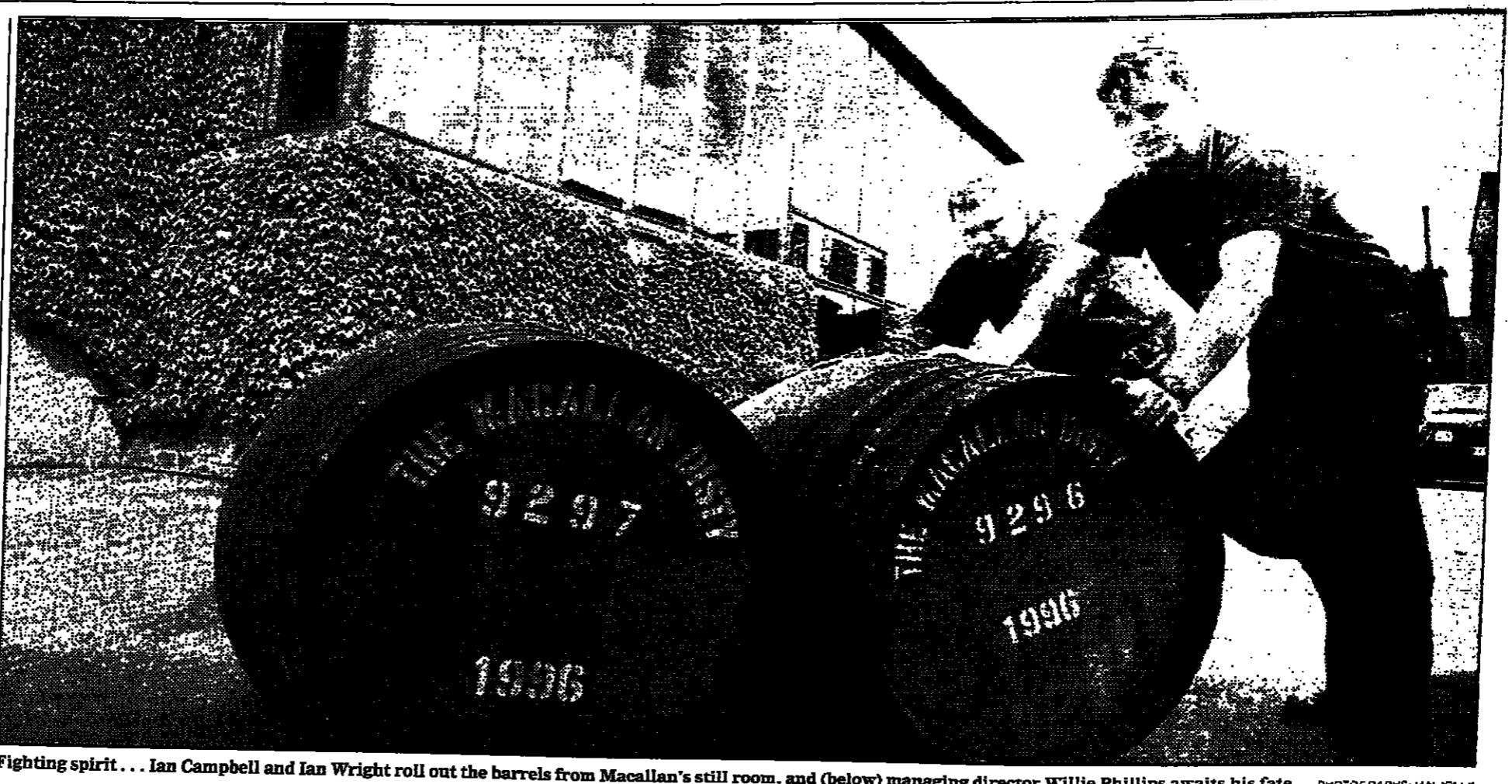
Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate		
Australia	1.91	France	7.7825	Italy	2.382	Singapore	2.14
Austria	15.13	Germany	2.295	Japan	164.75	Spain	163.00
Belgium	47.15	Greece	363.30	Netherlands	2.5775	Sweden	10.15
Canada	2.0620	Hong Kong	11.71	New Zealand	2.2050	Switzerland	1.875
Cyprus	0.7045	India	5.675	Norway	9.8550	Turkey	121.163
Denmark	6.8750	Ireland	0.9425	Portugal	237.00	USA	1.5100
Finland	7.1950	Israel	5.00	Saudi Arabia	5.75		

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

New foreign-owned mines lead to regeneration and conflict for the host nations

Zimbabwe awards itself platinum pass to prosperity

Over the past 20 years because they are the crucial ingredient in exhaust catalysts. Output will be refined in Britain by Johnson Matthey and Inco...



Fighting spirit... Ian Campbell and Ian Wright roll out the barrels from Macallan's still room, and (below) managing director Willie Phillips awaits his fate

Whisky clan under siege

Japanese firm in joint bid for single-malt brand. Ian King reports

THE Scotch whisky industry was poised for a shake-up yesterday after Highland Distilleries...

Glasgow to Macallan's Speyside premises, resulting in undisclosed number of job losses. Jobs would also go to Macallan's head office...



Managing director Willie Phillips awaits his fate

S&N takes courage from good year

Outlook Ian King

WHEN Scottish & Newcastle bought Foster's last summer for £425 million, becoming Britain's biggest brewer...

News in brief

BTR sells diesel division for £80m BTR, the diversified industrial group, has sold its diesel engine-making division...

Table with 5 columns: Metric, Value, % change. Includes rows for Stock market value, Share price, Workforce, Interest cover, Sales, Pre-tax profit, Earnings per share, Dividend, Operating profit (1995-96), and Revenue as a % of total group.

Former Vulkan bosses sued

FOUR former senior managers at bankrupt German shipbuilder Bremer Vulkan are being sued for millions of marks in damages...

Amstrad loss-makers split off

AMSTRAD, the computer group, moved a step closer to an agreed takeover by Psion after agreeing to split off its loss-making consumer electronics business...

PFI accused of extravagance

THE Government's Private Finance Initiative is suffering from confusion, delay and unnecessary expense, and is failing to produce the promised boost to investment...

Thorn sells security stake

THORN EMI is selling its stake in Thorn Security Group to Tyco International for \$90.6 million, ahead of its demerger in August...

Philips cuts radio volume

PHILIPS Electronics has sold a majority stake in Philips Telecom Europe, a venture capital company, to Caven...

AT&T dials Britain's top talkers

THE battle for Britain's private phone users got under way in earnest yesterday when AT&T, the largest and most powerful US telecommunications group...

Eggar plans to accelerate North Sea oil exploration

OIL companies will be told by the Government to develop North Sea exploration sites or surrender their rights to them...

AT&T claimed it could offer customers savings of up to 40 per cent on BT's basic call charges...

Cricket County Championship Results raise W Ata bu skipper G Scoreboard

Cricket

County Championship: Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Resurgent Gough raises the stakes

David Foot at New Road

WITH 10 minutes of the final hour left Darren Gough steamed in and out-trapped Alamgir Sheryar. It was the 15th leg-before of the match and, for resurgent Yorkshire, the most important. This was their fifth championship win of the season - and they are 19 points clear at the top.

over accounted for Moody. After that it was a question of whether Worcestershire would hold out. They lacked Hick, after all, though he was spotted in the nets and generated one or two mild shafts of cynicism from the faithful who felt he was needed for more practical duties.

40 when he tried to pull and top-edged to close fully. Yorkshire's bowlers were handled imaginatively and limited Worcestershire to only 121 runs. Stemp came on after 14 overs, kept a good length and found bounce, taking three for 32.

Tour match: Glamorgan v Pakistan

Ata buoys his skipper

Mike Selvey at Pontypridd

GLAMORGAN have worked hard to gain their well-earned reputation for making touring teams feel welcome. So the borough council of Rhonda-Cynon-Taff, generous and willing hosts, who had coughed up £25,000 to bring the Pakistanis to Pontypridd, deserved better than a soggy finale to what had promised to be an entertaining day.

The last six months or so, particularly in the aftermath of the World Cup defeat by India, have been tough for Wasim. But he recognises the passion at home and understands. "They can take it a bit too seriously," he said yesterday. "The players tried their best. Sportsmen have to accept losing sometimes as part of the game."

Durham hopes doused

NOT for the first time in Durham's short career at the bottom of the top level they had their parade precipitated upon yesterday when rain at Chester-le-Street cost them any chance of a first championship win of the season and rendered Saturday's heroics with the bat no more than a hiccup to morale, writes Chris Curtis.

Glossopshire, set 395 to win, reached lunch on 113 for two against a depleted but straining Durham attack but little more was possible and the visitors ended on 159 for two. A torrential storm after tea robbed Mark Butcher of a possible fourth century of the season as Surrey and Essex settled for a draw at Southend. Between other earlier showers the left-handed opener reached 85 from a total of 187 for two before the weather finally closed in.



Doing the business... Emma O'Gorman brings Saseedo with a smooth run to get up on the line in the Active Business Services Handicap at Pontefract yesterday

Chepstow card with guide to the form

Table containing race details for Chepstow, including race numbers, names, and odds. Races include 2.00 Antwerp, 2.30 Stewards' Trial Handicap, and 3.00 Bessie's Trial Handicap.

Table containing race details for Musselburgh, including race numbers, names, and odds. Races include 2.10 Pullman, 2.45 Joan Smith in 40 Today's Claiming Stakes, and 4.15 Bessie's Trial Handicap.

Racing

Halling 5-1 for Eclipse repeat

Ron Cox

GODOLPHIN could be double-handed in their bid to win Saturday's Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown for the second year running. Halling will be out to repeat last season's win, and Charnwood Forest was an unexpected name among yesterday's confirmed entries.

"You can never be confident that a horse will stay but Bijou d'Inde is tough and he was running strongly at Royal Ascot," said Johnston. "The intention is to try Charnwood Forest over 10 furlongs eventually, but a decision about him will be made later this week. He is fit and ready to run, but the Sussex Stakes is the priority."

Scoreboard

Large table containing cricket scoreboards for various matches, including Lancashire v Somerset, Glamorgan v Pakistan, and Durham v Lancashire. It includes batting and bowling statistics for individual players.

Tour matches

Table listing cricket tour matches between Glamorgan and Pakistan, including match numbers, dates, and venues.

Other matches

Table listing other cricket matches, including Lancashire v Yorkshire, Warwickshire v Essex, and Middlesex v Warwickshire.

Results

Table listing the results of various horse races, including the Active Business Services Handicap and the Bessie's Trial Handicap.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

FA looks 10 years ahead of its time and bids for World Cup

David Lacey finds Graham Kelly riding the euphoria of Euro 96 and assesses the chances of England landing the big one in 2006

ENGLAND will mount a bid to host the 2006 World Cup provided the Germans do not present a more convincing case for winning the nomination...

had forced the abandonment of a friendly in Dublin in February last year have been confounded. The lasting achievement of Euro 96 is that 11 years after...

the good-humoured crowds in the United States during the 1994 World Cup. The atmosphere inside our excellent grounds, and memorably the passion of the supporters, was everything we hoped for and more...

come down heavily on the side of the Japanese bid. English hopes will rise if Johansson wins the Fifa presidency in two years' time...

Nevertheless Kelly remains confident that "the FA will not be a massive figure" in terms of spectator appeal...



Johansson... influential

Violence mars Germany's celebrations

Ian Traynor in Bonn on the champions' homecoming

GERMANY'S triumphant players returned home yesterday to a boisterous welcome by around 30,000 fans who filled the squares and streets around Frankfurt's town hall to celebrate the country's third European Championship...

for Vogts. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, an amateur footballer in his youth, added: "It was one of Bertie Vogts' greatest achievements. He is the winner..."

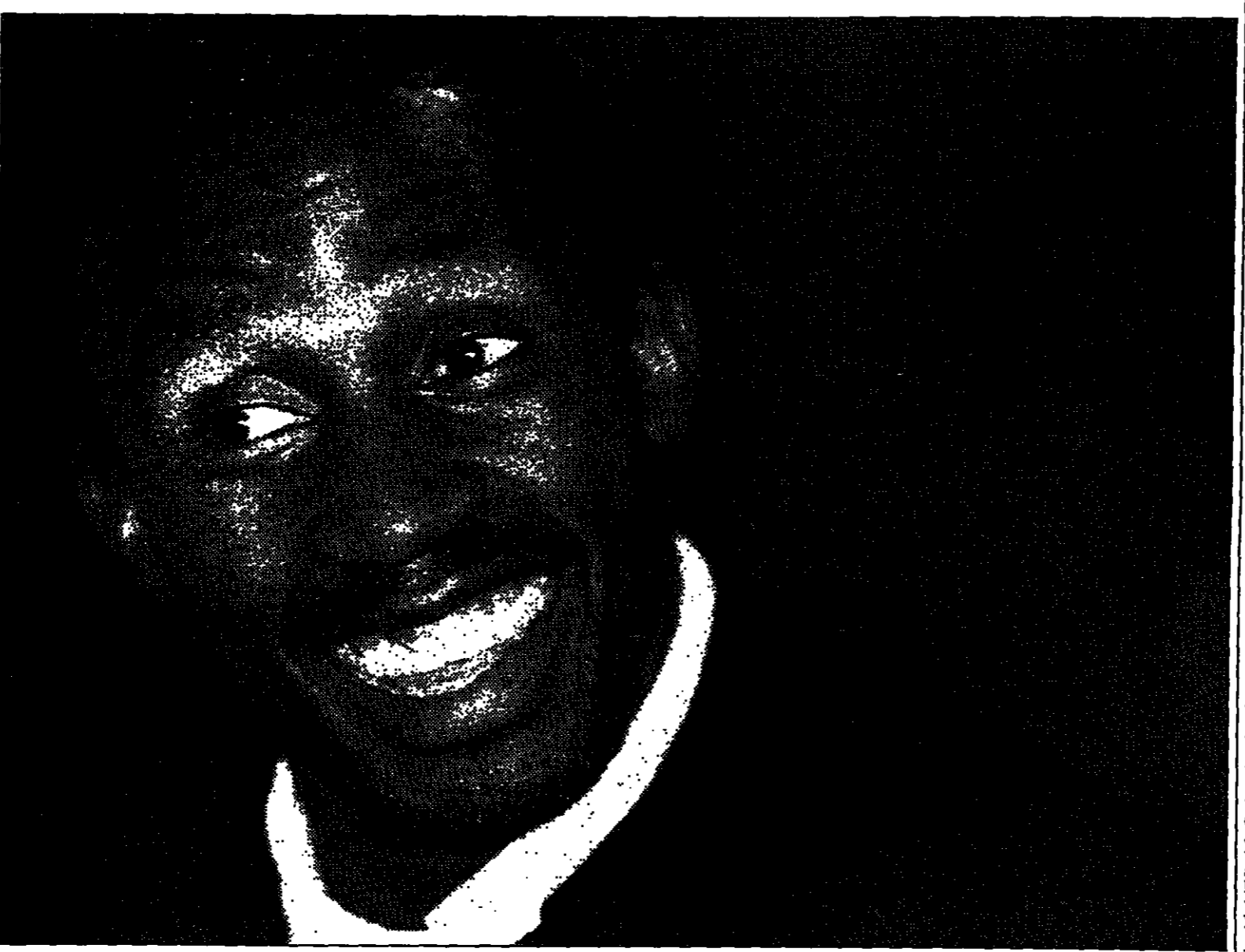
Athletics

Christie pledges himself to Atlanta

Duncan Mackay hears the GB captain end the suspense

Duncan Mackay

LIMFORD CHRISTIE seemed the most relaxed person in the room when, in a London hotel yesterday, he announced the decision Britain's Olympic selectors had anticipated for the past year...



No worries... Christie after confirming that he will defend his Olympic 100 metres title and run in the 200 and 4x100 relay too

For more than two hours Christie, stylishly dressed in a retro black jacket, dealt with a barrage of reporters and photographers with good grace and humour...

Yet it was unclear what finally convinced Christie to change his mind. He offered a multitude of reasons: public pressure, patriotism, support from his coach Ron Roddan, advice from his training partner Frankie Fredericks, even England's success in Euro 96...

Atto Boldon, two men who have broken 10sec this summer, and the world-record holder Leroy Burrell. "All year my rivals have been saying I'm going but they were probably hoping at the back of their minds that I wouldn't," said Christie...

Christie, though, has not taken the longer sprint seriously since 1988, when he finished fourth in the Seoul Olympics. The world-record holder Michael Johnson will not lose much sleep.

Christie's Atlanta credentials over 100m will be tested further in Lausanne tomorrow night when he faces Dennis Mitchell, winner of the US trials, and Fredericks, who ran 9.87 in Helsinki last week...

he qualified in London in April, to the 10,000 metres in Atlanta. The BAF also named the triple-jumper Jonathan Edwards and javelin thrower Steve Backley as additions to the team...

Draws 'saved' the bookies' in Euro 96

Dan Atkinson

EURO 96 was Britain's biggest betting event ever with punters staking around £30 million, and bookmakers say that only the unusual number of knock-out matches that were draws at 90 minutes saved them from making an overall loss...

Only two of the seven post-group stage matches yielded results at 90 minutes and, as the country's biggest betting shop chain Lambro pointed out yesterday, relatively few punters go for a draw...

United make £3.5m offer for Poborsky

Ian Ross

MANCHESTER United might lodge a formal bid of £3.5 million for Karel Poborsky, the Czech Republic's gifted playmaker and one of the most coveted players in Europe...

Liverpool also expressed interest in him but cooled when his demand rose from £2 million to more than £3 million in a matter of days.

Newcastle consider move

Michael Walker

NEWCASTLE and Sunderland yesterday advanced plans to move from their traditional homes. In Newcastle last night 65 members of the city council's ruling Labour group discussed the possibility of Sir John Hall's club moving from St James' Park to another venue in the city...

Newcastle's huge popularity has created a 12,000-long waiting list for season tickets and has led Sir John to talk publicly about moving the club, possibly to Gateshead. This prompted the Labour group's talks over an alternative site within Newcastle's city boundaries.

Archer goes double top



UNTIL last week Allison Williamson was known as one of Britain's top archers. Then her picture appeared in Esquire magazine and she became the team's only topless one.

National Gallery all aesthetically posed. If it's [there] it can hardly be that bad. We would only be concerned by something more explicit. I would prefer people to be concentrating on the fact that the girl is a brilliant archer."

SEVENTEEN days to go and already the Olympic games has claimed its first defectors. Two Cuban boxers Ramon Carbey and Joel Casamayor slipped away from the team camp in Guadalajara and are reported to have sought asylum at a border crossing near San Diego.

ERITREA, Africa's youngest nation, plans to send a team of two cyclists to Atlanta. Yonas Zeleaz and Bereket Zere left Eritrea recently for Japan for final training before the Games.

MARY Joe Fernandez will compete in the tennis tournament following a change of heart by the organisers. The American had wanted to enter the doubles with Gigi Fernandez, defending the title they won in 1992, but was told she could not because the US team already had the maximum of four team members.

Results

Soccer: INTERCITY CUP: Group Two: Tottenham (goals by) 2, Luton 1. Group Three: Luton 1, Ipswich 0. Group Four: Ipswich 1, Luton 0. Group Five: Luton 1, Ipswich 0. Group Six: Ipswich 1, Luton 0.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 5, Montreal 6. Cincinnati 5, Chicago 6. New York 12, St. Louis 7. Colorado 10, Los Angeles 5. Houston 5, Atlanta 2. San Diego 7, Florida 6. Oakland 4, San Francisco 3. American League: Boston 5, Detroit 4. Toronto 5, Milwaukee 2. New York 1, Baltimore 3. Texas 3, California 1. Oakland 2, Chicago 2. Cleveland 4, St. Louis 3.

Cycling

TOUR DE FRANCE: Second stage (Dun Schach, Neth to Wimpey): 1. 247km: 1. M. Cipollini (ITA) 39:00. 2. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 3. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 4. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 5. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 6. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 7. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 8. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 9. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00. 10. J. Garos (FRA) 39:00.

Sport in brief

Boxing: Richie Woodhall's challenge for the WBC world middleweight title in Las Vegas on July 13 hit a major snag yesterday when the promoter Don King asked for options on the Telford man's next four fights should he detrone the American Keith Holmes. "I haven't worked this hard just to sign my life away to Don King," said the former European champion.

Chess

Championship at Marblehead in Massachusetts, writes Bob Fisher: The skipper, Andy Beardsworth, Barry Paton and Adrian Stead beat a Russian crew led by Dmitry Shalduko 2-1 in the match-racing final. Britain's Shirley Robertson finished second overall in a similar regatta at Hilton Head, where only Kristine Rog of Denmark was missing from the leading Olympic contenders in the Europe class.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

Motor Racing

Ferrari team chief offers to resign

Alan Henry
FERRARI'S racing director Jean Todt yesterday offered to resign in the wake of the team's fiasco at the French Grand Prix...

aim of challenging for the world championship in 1997 now seems a forlorn hope. Many of the Ferrari's difficulties come from having to reacquaint themselves with the demands of an established, world-class driver...

where Schumacher finished second behind Hill. Last month's Canadian Grand Prix saw Irvine retire with a broken suspension pushrod...

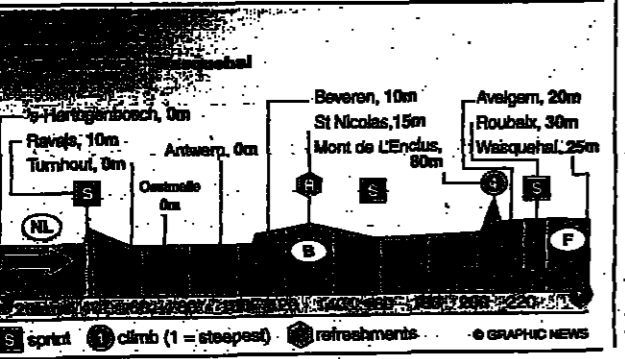
Tour de France

King Cipo dedicates this one to Sabrina

William Fotheringham in Wasquehal
AFTER costing his team some 550 Swiss francs (€260) in fines over the weekend, the king of the sprinters Mario Cipollini finally began to earn some prize money yesterday when he took the fourth Tour stage victory of his career...

the finish which, while it might have appeared terrifying to a mere mortal, is daily fare for the Italian and his nerveless peers. "A bit excessive," was his verdict. Cipollini put that piece of trick riding down to the fact that his team-mates failed to get him in the right place at the right time...

hearing about the woman who says they are in love with me," said Cipo. "And then I'm paid to pose with girls in the paper. Still, she knew it was never going to be easy marrying a media darling like me..."



William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly

WIMBLEDON



Growing pains... Martina Hingis, only 15, could not cope with Graf yesterday TOM EWENS

Graf rebuts Navratilova's little leg-pull

Paul Weaver feels the chill as the paths of bitter rivals cross

MARTINA Navratilova is almost 40, an age when some find it difficult to burn the candle at even one end and crowd's feet thunder across a face like elephant's hooves...

both by the make-up department. After the match she said of Navratilova: "I wish what she said was true. She's lucky she doesn't have to live with them. I think she should know better than to say these things. Actually we saw each other in the locker room two days ago and she said she was sorry the way it was put..."

Graf needed only 50 minutes to outmuscle Hingis, with her youthful double-fisted squawks and squawks, as the monarch of SW19, who had said something nasty about Steffi on the HBO cable network in the United States...

But Graf has done more than succeed here; she is now threatening to nudge her to one side in the pantheon. They have met in three Wimbledon finals. Navratilova won in straight sets in 1997 but Graf won in 1988 and 1989...

A lurking gunslinger to rival Ivanisevic

Frank Keating finds an unheralded German already closing on 100 aces

BY THE time the afternoon rains arrived Goran Ivanisevic had not only lined up his heavy artillery on Court Two but had already popped off enough shells to take his championship tally of aces to 90...

slightly fudge the story. The legendary gunslinger Ivanisevic is averaging around 20 aces per match this Wimbledon because all his four victories so far, barring yesterday's four-set win over Patrick Rafter, have been in straight sets...

and, last, the shell flies in". Tanner used only a wooden racket. Neither then was a radar-gun in place on Wimbledon's two main showcourts to record service speeds...

Results

- Men's Singles
Holder: P Sampras (US)
Fourth round
Dedelescu (R) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs J. Hlasek (S)
S. Ivanisevic (C) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs P. Rafter (A)
M. Hingis (S) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs S. Graf (G)

- Women's Doubles
Holder: J Novotna / A Sanchez-Vicario (Cz/Sp)
Third round
P. Sampras (US) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs J. Hlasek (S)
S. Ivanisevic (C) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs P. Rafter (A)
M. Hingis (S) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 vs S. Graf (G)

Rugby Union

Sky 'furious' over Welsh claims of TV domination

John Duncan
SKY Television was yesterday "furious" at suggestions by the Welsh Rugby Union chairman Vernon Pugh that the broadcasting deal that the satellite channel is offering is heavy with conditions and would allow television to take over the game...

control the game, Mr Pugh should give his colleagues in the southern hemisphere a call and ask them how much control over the game we have there despite the TV deals. The answer is none...

Boxing

Moorer charged after club incident

MICHAEL MOORER was charged yesterday with creating a disturbance at a social club in Monessen, Pennsylvania, eight days after regaining the IBF heavyweight title in Germany...

Rugby League

Arthurson surrenders his post at the ARL

Paul Fitzpatrick
KEN ARTHURSON, the man at the forefront of the Australian Rugby League's battle with Rupert Murdoch's Super League, is to relinquish his position as executive chairman of the ARL...

"We are looking at a restructuring of the league, and that has been public knowledge for some time," he added. "I believe that part of that restructuring should mean that we have only a chief executive officer or an executive chairman. There are not many organisations that have both..."

A conspiracy charge against John Martin, a Wigan director, has been dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service after a "very careful review of all the evidence"...



Serving power... Mary Pierce of France races to a straight-sets victory over the Russian Elena Likhovtseva

Team talk
For the latest News
Call 0891 33 77+
England 38 Hudd. Town 32 Sheffield United 15
Scotland 09 Ipswich Town 19 Sheffield Wed. 14
Arsenal 06 Leeds United 03 Southampton 20
Aston Villa 11 Leicester City 35 Stoke City 30
Birm. City 34 Liverpool 04 Sunderland 27
Blackburn 21 Man. City 02 Tottenham Hot. 07
Bolton 28 Man. United 01 West Ham 12
Brentford 24 Middlesbrough 23 Wimbledon 26
Burnley 31 Millwall 29 Wolves 37
Chelsea 06 Newcastle Utd 16 Celtic 09
Coventry City 17 Norwich City 18 Rangers 10
Derby County 28 Nottm. Forest 13
Everton 05 QPR 25

SportsGuardian

WIMBLEDON: GRAF SURGES ON BETWEEN THE SHOWERS

Bold Henman battles into the last eight

Stephen Bierley sees the first Briton reach the men's quarter-finals since 1973

TIM HENMAN provided a shaft of light yesterday the like of which has not been seen for 23 years. Repeating the brilliant tennis that had swept away the French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the first round, he reached the quarter-finals in glorious sunshine as the showers finally abated.

It had been a frustrating day for Britain's No. 1. His fourth-round match with Magnus Gustafsson started just after 3pm and did not finish until nearly 7.45. The two men were on and off the Centre Court four times as showers interrupted play.

Henman eventually won 7-6, 6-4, 7-6 to become the first British player to reach the last eight since 1973. That was when Yorkshire's Roger Taylor went on to defeat Sweden's Bjorn Borg, making his Wimbledon debut, to reach the semi-final. What a stir there would be if Henman equalled that.

Britain's last finalist was Bunny Austin in 1938: the last winner the incomparable Fred Perry two years earlier. But this is getting into realms of fantasy.

When the match finally began at 3.13, Henman won his opening service game to love with an ace thrown in for good measure. On Saturday the Swede had been a touch churlish about the British player's serve.

An improvised overhead,

taken at an awkward angle, opened up two break-points on Gustafsson's opening serve. The Swede saved both but was broken on the third deuce. This was the best of all possible starts by Henman, and the Centre Court purred.

The British No. 1 held for a 2-0 lead but ever thickening clouds were rapidly losing any semblance of summer whiteness and filling grey with imminent rain.

Two excellent Henman volleys drew a tap of the racket from Gustafsson in appreciation but then in the seventh game came the break back.

The Swede hit a forehand winner off Henman's first serve and then a couple of errors suddenly opened up three break-points. Henman saved a couple but not the third, Gustafsson belting over another forehand winner.

Then, with the score at 15-15 in the eighth game, one of the day's many showers swept in. At this point there had been precisely 23 minutes' play.

About half an hour later the players returned, knocked up and departed. Henman waved the clouds away but to no avail. The rain was very light and the British player, no doubt knowing a thing or two about matters meteorological, hesitated. Alan Mills, the referee, ushered him off gently but firmly.

By now Dickie Bird would have been apoplectic. Where would it all end? Would it ever end? They were back

just before 5pm, to play another 12 minutes. Henman led 6-5.

This time it appeared the rain was here to stay. The Centre Court cover had been hoisted and there were steady drips of water falling from the saturated supporting ropes. The crowd huddled and hoped.

But the clouds suddenly lifted and a rainbow signalled renewed hope. Enough grey-blue to make an England shirt appear and the sun shone. Gustafsson levelled at 6-6 but Henman rattled through the tiebreak, climaxing with an ace to win it 7-2.

The Swede showed off his forehand early in the second set. Two pulsatingly struck passes flew diagonally past Henman as he lost his serve to love to go 2-0 down.

But Henman is a fighter. His backhand began to flow, unhindered shots that had Gustafsson swiping at thin air as he scurried to retrieve.

The British player's concentration was intense; this, allied to his quality of shot, saw him get back level, cracking the Swede's serve with a sprawling, diving forehand volley at the net.

Gustafsson was in trouble now; he lost his serve again and Henman duly took a two-set lead. The third set also went to a tiebreak, although not before Henman had been 5-3 down.

At this snuff of danger Henman unleashed a marvellous array of telling shots, finishing the tiebreak at 7-4 with a kicking serve that Gustafsson returned wide. The Centre Court rose to its feet. It was wonderful to behold.



Tina spurner... Staff Graf crushed the 15-year-old Martina Hingis 6-1, 6-4, then responded to ungracious remarks from Martina Navratilova. Paul Weaver, page 15

A floating stadium fit for the world



Richard Williams

WERE like a bunch of idiots who've just got back from the amusement park. flushed and sticky with excitement. We had a good time, so can we do it again? Please? Now?

Hardly had Pierluigi Paireto blown the whistle to signal the end of Euro 96 before we were demanding to have another go. Okay, maybe not tomorrow or even next week. But there's a vacancy for a nation to host the World Cup in 2006. Why can't it be us?

Euro 96 was a success in almost every respect, emotionally and materially. It made people feel good and it helped refurbish the image of the game in the country where it was born.

It also made money. Not, it is true, for the host body. The Football Association will apparently be lucky to break even, although UEFA — which owns the tournament, and therefore the television and sponsorship rights — is looking forward to a handsome profit.

But the FA shouldn't grumble. It is not in existence principally to make a profit. And the popularity of the event will have done nothing but good to the Premiership and the FA Cup, the sources of its prosperity.

The true material satisfaction will be felt in the boardrooms of the sponsoring companies which received countless hours and column inches of publicity for their chocolate bars, soft drinks, sports footwear and insurance policies. For them the tournament's ability to command the front pages as well as the back will have justified the millions they fronted up to join the club, plus the vast additional sums spent on promoting their involvement.

The Americans were the first to make this kind of arrangement work when Peter Ueberroth successfully pledged that the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles would reverse the massive losses previously racked up in Montreal and Moscow.

That was the moment when major sports events wholeheartedly embraced free-market capitalism, a philosophy whose triumph was con-

firmed 10 years later with USA 94, when capitalism proved that it could take a major tournament and make it flourish *in vitro*, totally removed from its habitual sources of nourishment.

But the conditions must be right, at least by FIFA's standards, which is why it is hard to imagine the World Cup returning to Brazil. Nowhere does football's heart beat more powerfully than in Rio and Sao Paulo, yet the country of Pele and Romario has not hosted the World Cup since 1950.

Brazil's economy and its infrastructure do not appeal to the game's governing body, which is why money from Fuji, the Matsushita Corporation and Coca-Cola will never be used to rebuild the crumbling concrete bowls that are the game's true temples, even though the tournament would be valueless without the actual team's participation.

ENGLAND, by contrast, has all the prerequisites, plus the aptitude for this specialised task. We are good at this sort of thing nowadays. If we no longer manufacture anything much, we have certainly mastered the more modern skill of marketing. And in a world where entertainment is replacing work as the main focus of our lives, this is a significant attribute.

So it would not be entirely frivolous to propose these projects as a long-term replacement for the vanished industrial base. Britain could become a sort of floating stadium for the world, just as pre-revolutionary Cuba functioned as an offshore casino for the United States.

Events like Euro 96 and the World Cup also feed the current British appetite for sensation. It is possible to look at the interest aroused by the events of last month and be slightly shocked that mere sport should so preoccupy the nation, a phenomenon that makes sense only when considered as part of a higher narrative, a continuum of over-excitement also taking in the vicissitudes of the Royal Family, the agonies of New Labour, the occasional mass murder and, in between times, the quasi-stardom of Paula Yates, Pamela Anderson, Chris Evans and Michael Barrymore.

Thanks to the tabloids, now in sole charge of a higher national agenda, the English have lost their capacity to endure the flat periods between the moments of hyper-excitement. So the question is no longer whether we can afford to have the World Cup. It is whether we can afford not to have it.

An honours list with omens that look Taylor-made for Britain

TIM HENMAN is only the 10th British player to reach the quarter-finals of the men's singles in the past 70 years — and the first unseeded Briton to do so in the open era.

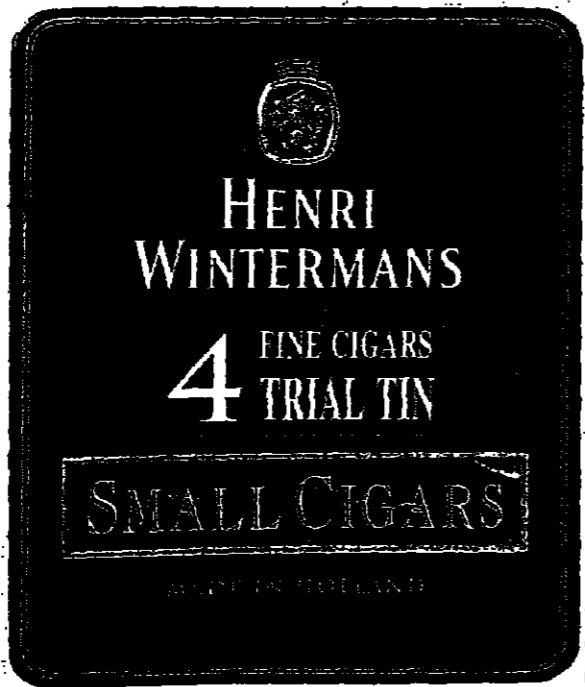
The only Britons to have reached the last eight since the war were Tony Mottram (once), Mike Sangster (once), Bobby Wilson (three times) and Roger Taylor (three times).

The only British men to make the semi-finals since

1926 are Bunny Austin, Fred Perry, Sangster and Taylor. Perry won in 1934, 1935 and 1936 — the first three years in which Henry Billington, Henman's grandfather, played the championships.

It is the first time since 1984, when John Lloyd made the quarter-finals at the US Open, that a British man has gone so far in a Grand Slam event. Lloyd earned \$20,000; Henman is guaranteed \$51,025.

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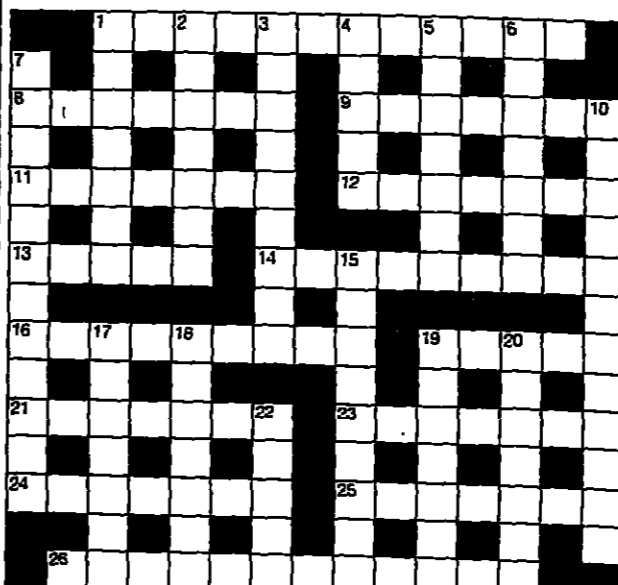


But Freud — unlike Bacon — does not, largely, delude himself with the fantasy that he can paint more than appearances.
Adrian Searle

G2 page 8

Guardian Crossword No 20,694

Set by Logodaedalus

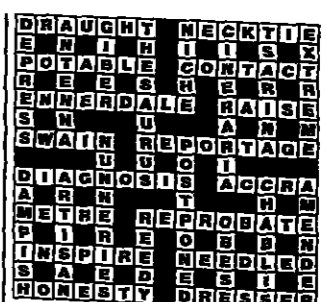


Across

- 1 Poor U.N. food consumed by Eastern European prodigal (5,7)
- 8 Arithmetic for letter-writers? (7)
- 9 Bill in street car test reversing into felines (3-4)
- 11 No women could be unlucky when seen through the window (3,4)
- 12 Condition of paid player: well after six? (7)
- 13 Deposit last bit of money in one's discomfort (3,2)
- 14 After a jiffy, one unfinished whisky is of lesser importance (9)
- 16 Receiver backing Rose to hire about four (5)
- 19 Gentleman grips piano wood (5)
- 21 Entrance for travelling singers (7)
- 23 Sunshade — standard one — so gets left behind (7)

Down

- 1 Margaret not here? Work on diligently! (3,4)
- 2 Like silent trumpet, starting up noisily but leaving out wobbly notes (7)
- 3 Identifies a gin mixed up in measured portions (9)
- 4 Senior citizen keeps religious work readily available (2,3)
- 5 Caricature portrays a bird embracing a legislator (7)
- 6 Good man with a bird needing grit (7)
- 7 Missionary ain't found in resort with cheat (5,7)
- 10 A clerk goes to a party in Sunday School — like Scheherazade & Co (5-7)



Crossword Solution 20,694

- 15 Record data for eccentric person — Judy's man (4,5)
- 17 Rational but common soldier is seen in pub (7)
- 18 Changing what postman might do with twenty-second letter (7)
- 19 Amis perhaps captures one inhabitant of a planet (7)
- 20 This hobby reveals father's age (7)
- 22 Set up Galileo's head in this exhibition (5)

Solution tomorrow

Handwritten note: JP 11/10/96